

**Central UMC Administrative Council**  
**July 16, 2024**  
**6:00pm - 7:00pm**

**Call to Order** - Phyllis Wilburn

**Opening Devotion and Prayer**

**Our Vision:** Helping People to Find and Follow Jesus

**Our Mission:** “We exist to CONNECT, GROW, SERVE, GIVE, and GO so that all may know God’s love through Jesus Christ!”

**Agenda Items:**

- 1. Debriefing from the Temperature Check Results**
- 2. Dissociation Info / Discussion on Next Steps**
- 3. Wedding Policy**
- 4. Lay Leader/Staff Pertinent Reports/ Rebuilding Teams**
- 5. New business:**

**2024 Scheduled Administrative Council Dates:** Sept 17: 6pm Dec 10: 6pm

**Closing Prayer**

**Lay Leaders**

Lisa Thompson - Connect  
Kara Scheetz - Grow  
Steve Abercrombie - Serve  
Jennifer Hensley /Joel or Karlee - Give  
Shelia Borders and Steve Rodier - Missions

**Trustees**

Tim Sayers

**Staff Parish**

Danny Lantz

**Staff Reports**

Central Kids	Hannah Collins
Central Students	Michelle Garcia
Worship and Music	Open
Associate Pastor	Audrey Madigan
Lead Pastor	Scott Layer

## Temperature Check Results

On Sunday June 23 at 3pm, members of Central gathered to take a temperature check of our congregation as a result of the changes made at General Conference in regards to human sexuality. Of the 202 ballots cast, the result were split: 55% wanted to Stay United Methodist and 45% wanted to leave the UMC.

This information from this temperature check will give guidance to our Administrative Council, Staff Parish and Trustee teams. Our next scheduled Administrative Council meeting is Tuesday, July 16 at 6 pm.

We believe there is more that binds us together than separates us; however, we also recognize each person has to follow their conscience. Some of you may consider leaving. Some of you may now choose to officially join Central. For many of you, Central is your church family to stay. Moving forward, we hope you will be engaged in the life and ministry of the church in spite of our differences.

Our mission and ministry as a church remains the same. We are here to help people find and follow Jesus. May we continue to live this mission individually and corporately.

Pastors Scott and Audrey

## **Disassociation Info - Updated June 28, 2024**

### **Holston Conference Trustees**

#### **Disassociation Process Update**

The Board of Trustees for the Holston Annual Conference met on Wednesday, June 26th to continue their work on a process for churches seeking to exit the denomination who find it untenable to continue effective ministry as a United Methodist Church due to changes in language in the Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality. This work is being done to fulfill the promise provided in the Fall 2022 Resolution that the conference will seek a fair, gracious, and non-punitive process to permit a local church to sever its ties to The United Methodist Church, subject to these certain conditions, if one is not provided by the General Conference.

Since our last communication, at least 2 Annual Conferences have sought Declaratory Decisions from the United Methodist Judicial Council to find out if such a process is even permitted in accordance with the Book of Discipline and actions of General Conference eliminating a disaffiliation process.

Accordingly, the Board of Trustees are working diligently to develop a process utilizing provisions of the Book of Discipline to accomplish what was promised without violating the Book of Discipline. For this reason, the process being finalized has multiple steps and provisions that are designed to withstand scrutiny by the Judicial body of The United Methodist denomination.

Likewise, since the disaffiliation process has been terminated, the process Holston Conference will use, that permits a church to disassociate from the United Methodist denomination, will necessarily be through the process of church closure under the Book of Discipline ¶12549.

We anticipate the Judicial Council will issue a Decision later this year. In the meantime, the Board of Trustees will continue to move forward with the implementation of this process we have put together. However, for obvious reasons, no church closures will be finalized until the Judicial Council has ruled such a process is legally appropriate.

While there are a few additional steps to be finalized, we anticipate the work of the trustees to conclude in the next few weeks.

## **Council Discussion on Next Steps**

1. Continue to wait for Dissociation Information to Come From Holston Conference Trustees. Then follow up and respond once we receive it.
2. Stay UMC and move forward.
3. Stay UMC and update wedding policy and pastor profile.

\* FAQ - From Christ UMC Chattanooga

Will pastors be forced to officiate same-sex weddings?

No, UMC pastors have always decided whom they will marry. This is based on several factors including the couples' preparation for the marriage covenant. This has not changed. Pastors will continue to decide whom they will marry. There is no mechanism in Conference leadership nor desire on the part of the bishop to determine whom a pastor will marry.

As the newly adopted language reads, we will "not penalize any clergy for performing, or refraining from performing, a same-sex marriage service." The desires of all clergy are to be honored and not judged by others.

Does our church now have to host same-sex weddings?

No, the General Conference legislation explicitly protects the rights of clergy and churches not to officiate at or host same-sex weddings. The UMC will not "require any local church to hold or prohibit a local church from holding a same-sex marriage service on the property of the local church."

We know that different people have different opinions on these matters and our churches are in different contexts within the bounds of the Holston Conference. The bishop expects that the diversity of everyone's opinion and everyone's context will be honored.

CUMC has currently voted through the Trustee committee and affirmed by the church council to not hold same sex marriages based on the current ministers' recommendations and the desire of leadership to keep the same policies as were in place before General Conference.

<https://christchurchchatt.org/dev/index.php/the-umc/conferencefaq>

Four main focuses for 2024 in addition to growing our front door by reaching people and helping them get connected into the life of the church are:

1. Lead our Church Through General Conference
2. Rebuilding of Teams
3. Greater Mission Engagement by our church
- 4.. Establish Intergenerational Ministry

#### **May/June/July**

- GC Response
- Congregational Survey
- Temperature Check
- Vote on Discernment

#### **August - December**

- Discernment Process ?
- Help Us Heal
- Rebuild Ministry Teams
- Refresh our Vision

### **Preaching Plan**

Aug 4      **Vision Sunday: Why Windshields are Bigger than Rear View Mirrors.**  
We don't move on, we move forward.

### **New Series: Awakening: Aug 11 - Sept 15**

How awake are you? Paul wrote, "Wake Up, O Sleeper and rise from the dead and Christ will shine upon you (Eph 5:14)". What does it mean to be awakened? The gospel is more than a eternal life insurance policy; it is an invitation to a bigger gospel, a gospel of a life walking with God.

Revival is when our souls become awakened. When human beings change, the world changes. Awakening begins with me.

### **New Series: Practicing Christian: Sept 22 - November 10**

What does it mean to be a practicing Christian? Around 63 percent of Americans self identify as Christians. 25% attend church. Some surveys put the number who are actually following Jesus at around 4-10%. Through this series, we will look at the invitation of Jesus when he said, "Follow Me" in different aspects of our lives.

### **Other Events**

1. **Fall Small Group Kickoff - Sunday School Promotion** - August 4
2. **Habitat Build** (ongoing)
3. **Small Groups:** Young Adults, Grief Share, Women's Study, Practicing the Way,
4. **Fall Confirmation Class:** August- December
5. **Mission Brainstorming: All Welcome.** Sunday Aug 11. 4:30-7pm. Dinner Included
6. **Fast Fellowship** - Church Potluck Aug 21 - 5:30 - 7pm
7. **Companion Study for Practicing Christian: Practicing the Way.**
8. **Hands on Mission Backpacks for children in Costa Rica** - September
9. **Falloween Outreach** - Oct 27